

Message Text

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64

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TAGS: PFOR, EEC, GR

SUBJECT: COORDINATION MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS SPEAKS ON EC
RELATIONS, FIVE-YEAR PLAN, AND DEPARTS FOR BRUSSELS

REF: A) ATHENS 1335 B) ATHENS 8477 (75)

1. COORDINATION MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS DEPARTED
FEBRUARY 25 FOR TALKS WITH TOP EC COMMISSION, EUROPEAN
INVESTMENT BANK, BELGIAN, DUTCH AND LUXEMBOURGER OFFICIALS.
THE TALKS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY FOCUS ON THE UPCOMING ACCESSION
NEGOTIATIONS, THE SECOND FINANCIAL PROTOCOL AND AGRI-
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CULTURAL HARMONIZATION, HIS DEPARTURE WAS PRECEDED BY

SEVERAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTER WHICH: A) EMPHASIZED THAT THIS DID NOT SIGNAL THE COMMENCEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR ACCESSION; B) HIGHLIGHTED THE EFFORTS WHICH GOG IS NOW MAKING TO PREPARE FOR THE EC NEGOTIATIONS, AND GENERALLY FOR MEDIUM-RUN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL BRING GREECE CLOSER TO EUROPEAN STANDARDS; C) DISMISSED THE NOTION OF A POPULAR REFERENDUM ON GREECE'S EC ACCESSION; AND D) REFERRED TO THE GREAT SIGNIFICANCE WHICH THE GOG ATTACHES TO THE EC'S STATUTORY ORGANS. AS IN HIS FEBRUARY 10 TELEVISION PRESENTATION (REF ATHENS 1335) PAPALIGOURAS' REMARKS SEEMED TO AIM AT EDUCATING THE AVERAGE CITIZEN ON THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE TO BE OVERCOME BEFORE GREEK ACCESSION WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME FORECASTING TANGIBLE ECONOMIC PROGRESS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

2. ORGANIZING FOR EC NEGOTIATIONS AND EARLY ACCESSION- AMONG THE STATEMENTS WAS A NATIONALLY TELEVISED ADDRESS ON FEBRUARY 21 IN WHICH PAPALIGOURAS FOCUSED PARTICULARLY ON THE NEED FOR GREECE TO PREPARE ADMINISTRATIVELY AND SUBSTANTIVELY FOR THE UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS AND THE INTEGRATION PROCESS. GOG WILL PREPARE A DRAFT LAW TO: A) ESTABLISH COMMITTEES WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE TECHNICAL PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE OVERALL CONTROL OF THE MINISTRY OF COORDINATION; B) STRENGTHEN GREEK REPRESENTATION IN EC CAPITALS; AND C) INCREASE ECONOMIC RESEARCH ON THE EFFECTS OF ACCESSION.

3. FIVE-YEAR PLAN- PAPALIGOURAS FILLED OUT HIS FEBRUARY 21 SPEECH WITH MANY OF THE STATISTICS ALREADY INCLUDED IN A PREVIOUS STATEMENT ON THE PLAN (REF ATHENS 8477), WHICH FORECAST CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC PROGRESS DURING THE REST OF THE DECADE. PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF HIS STATEMENT ON THE PLAN, HOWEVER, CONCERNED THE FORMATION OF SPECIAL SECTORAL COMMITTEES (AS OF MARCH 1) INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF LABOR AND BUSINESS TO COOPERATE WITH EXPERT WORKING GROUPS IN STUDYING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND SUGGESTING POLICY MEASURES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CENTER OF PLANNING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH. PAPALIGOURAS EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANT LINK BETWEEN THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND THE "EUROPEANIZATION" OF THE GREEK ECONOMY. KUBISCH

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